

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/386,330

Examiner

Naeem Haq

Applicant(s)

OKADA ET AL.

Art Unit

3625

– The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address–

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to July 12, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5, 7-15 and 17-23.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 30 August 1999 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

This action is in response to the Applicants' amendment filed under an RCE on July 12, 2004. Claims 1-5, 7-15, and 17-23 are pending and will be considered for examination.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-5, 7-15, and 17-23 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Statement of allowance is with reference to independent claims 1, 10, and 17. All other claims are dependencies of these independent claims.

The present invention is directed to a purchase request approving apparatus, method, and program for approving a purchase request of a desired article. The independent claims 1, 10, and 17 recite the patentably distinct feature of sending an approval or rejection e-mail to a client from two separate and distinct processing windows. The approval e-mail is sent from an approval processing window and the rejection e-mail is sent from a rejection processing window.

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Discussion of most relevant prior art:

The following references have been identified as most relevant prior art to the claimed invention.

(i) US Patent 5,361,199 to Shoquist et al. hereinafter referred to as Shoquist.

Shoquist substantially discloses the Applicants' claimed invention. However, Shoquist fails to teach or suggest sending an approval or rejection e-mail to a client from two separate and distinct processing windows.

(ii) "*E-fulfillment: Go There*" by Barry Silverstein, March 10, 2000. Silverstein teaches sending a confirmation email to a user that restates the specifications of an order. This reference fails to teach or suggest sending an approval or rejection e-mail to a client from two separate and distinct processing windows. Furthermore, this reference fails to antedate the Applicants' earliest priority date of September 1, 1998.

(iii) WO 02/054211 A1 generally discloses a message screening system, but fails to teach or suggest sending an approval or rejection e-mail to a client from two separate and distinct processing windows.

Any comments considered necessary by Applicants must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Naeem Haq whose telephone number is (703)-305-3930. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00am-5:00pm.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wynn W. Coggins can be reached on (703)-308-1344. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Naeem Haq, Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3625

January 9, 2005


WYNN W. COGGINS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600